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THE DESIGN OF REPLACEMENT HEIFERS AND DAIRY COWS HOUSING

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ABSTRACT The CIGR Section II (Farm Buildings, Equipment, Structures and Livestock Environment), Working Group n° 14, Cattle Housing, has been working for several years on the updating of the CIGR recommendations on housing of dairy cows. The housing of replacement heifers has been added to the previous report since it is important to raise young animals in very best conditions to ensure that their productive life will be as efficient as possible. The report is the result of thinking and experience of cattle housing specialist's originated from Europe and United States. It makes the synthesis of the most recent knowledge in the field of replacement heifers, dairy cows and dry cows housing. His goal is not to describe all the numerous design possibilities for these types of animals; it is mainly built on the basis on which the conception of each cattle housing must be made. The design of a building for cattle requires always the participation of a cattle-housing specialist's. The report explains the bases to understand the recommendations that take into account the characteristics of animals, the fundamental aspects of their behaviour, the relationships between animals and their environment, and with the stockperson. Relationships between animals are also considered. Different chapters have been developed: dimensions of the animals, designing to meet animal needs, environmental requirements, sustainability, numerous aspects of design, etc. The report will be put on a web site to be downloaded

Keywords: Housing, Dairy cows, Replacement heifers, Body dimensions, Animal behavior, Designing facilities, Environmental requirements, Climatisation, Milking facilities, Sustainability